Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 03777 111140Z ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CA-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 H-01 HA-05 /049 W -------086533 111146Z /46

O 111000Z JUL 78 FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2947 INFO AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC EAIR NL

SUBJECT: PAN AM LOW FARE FLIGHTS ASMTERDAM TO BOSTON AND

POSSIBLE STRANDEES

REF: AMSTERDAM 676

1. IN LIGHT OF THE UGLY SITUATION DEVELOPING AT SCHIPHOL AIRPORT AMONG THOSE WAITING FOR SEATS ON PAN AM'S AMSTERDA TO BOSTON FLIGHT, WE ARE TRYING TO SEE WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR PAN AM TO BRING IN A BOEING 747 TO RELIEVE THE BACKLOG. WE RAISED THE POSSIBILITY IN CONVERSATIONS JULY 11 WITH PAN AM'S DIRECTOR FOR THE NETHERLANDS, PETER LEGRO, AND THE CIVIL AVIATION SERVICE'S DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL, JURIDICAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, R.L. M. SCHREURS. WE ALSO MENTIONED OUR CONCERN TO AN OFFICIAL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S TRANSPORT ADVISER'S OFFICE.

2. LEGRO TOLD US THAT NO EXTRA PLANE IS AVAILABLE BEFORE THURSDAY, JULY 13. EVEN THEN, HE COULD NOT PROMISE ANYTHING SAYING THAT PAN AM'S FLEET IS HEAVILY COMMITTED. HE REFUSED TO CONSIDER CHARTERING AN AIRCRAFT FROM ANOTHER COMPANY BECAUSE OF THE COST.

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PAGE 02 THE HA 03777 111140Z

3. SCHREURS REITERATED THAT TRANSPORT STATE SECRETARY NEELIE SMIT LAST WEEK DENIED PERMISSION FOR PAN AM TO USE A 747 ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT VIOLATED THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SHE INITIALLY APPROVED THE AMSTERDAMBOSTON SERVICE. SHE WOULD AGREE TO THE USE OF A 707, BUT SCHREURS AGREED WITH US THAT A 707 WOULD NOT BE

ADEQUATE. HE SAID HE WOULD TRY TO PERSUADE MRS SMIT TO CHANGE HER MIND AND APPROVE A 747. WE ARE AWAITING NEWS OF HER DECISION. IF NECESSARY, THE CHARGE WILL CALL HER DIRECTLY.

4. COMMENT: THE SCENES AT SCHIPHOL ARE GIVING NOT ONLY PAN AM BUT ALSO THE US A BAD NAME. IT DOES DNOT SEEM TO US THAT PAN AM HAS SHOWN SUFFICIENT CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF ITS PASSENGERS OR FOR THE BURDEN BEING PLACED ON AIRPORT OFFICIALS AND STAFF. NOR DOES PAN AM SEEM AWARE OF THE NEGATIVE EFFECT THIS BADLY ORGANIZED OPERATION MAY HAVE ON THE ATTITUDES OF THE DUTCH OFFICIALS WHO WILL NEGOTIATE THE NEW CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT. WE URGE THAT DEPARTMENT TRY TO PERSUADE PAN AM TO MAKE AVAILABLE A 747 IMMEDIATELY.

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